India for continuance of the ongoing Centrally Sponsored Scheme on "Development of Freshwater Aquaculture" for the year 2001-2002 has been issued to the Government of Madhya Pradesh on 15.6.2001. Under the scheme, the expenditure on developmental activities such as construction of new ponds, renovation of ponds and tanks, first year inputs (fish seed, fish feed, fertilisers, manures, etc.), running water fish culture, integrated fish farming, fish seed hatcheries, fish feed mills, establishment of laboratories, training of fish farmers, etc. is shared on 75:25 basis between the Government of India and the concerned State Government.

(c) Central share has not been released during the year 2001-02 as the Government of Madhya Pradesh has an unspent balance of Rs. 145.91 lakh from the releases made under the scheme in previous years.

Import of agricultural product

2767. SHRI SWARAJ KAUSHAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) which are the agriculture products whose imports have gone up during the last three years;

(b) the extent of comparative increase and the reasons therefor; and

(c) what impact such increased imports have on the demestic agriculture?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) There has been no significant change in the import pattern of agricultural products during the last three years. The major agricultural commodities which have shown somewhat on upward trend in imports recently, are pulses, edible oils and cotton (raw &

waste). The figures for import of these commodities during the three years are given below:

(Rs. in crore)

	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01
Pulses	708.81	354.69	493.79
Edible oils	7588.93	8046.05	5932.76
Cotton (raw & waste)	381.11	1253.93	1183.15

The reasons for increasing import are low international prices coupled with a gap between domestic demand and supply in respect of pulses & edible oils. Reasons for heavy import of cotton arc low acceptability of domestically produced cotton due to impurities, inadequate availability of domestically produced long staple cotton and higher demand for imported cotton for producing yarn for exports.

(c) The increased imports have a tendency to depress the domestic prices of these commodities which, under certain circumstances affects the capability of the farmers to get remunerative prices for their agricultural produce. The Government, however, intervenes through Price Support Scheme in the market to ensure that the farmers get adequate price for their produce. In addition the Government is continuously monitoring the import of about 300 sensitive items. The Government can, if the situation so warrants, utilize the mechanism of raising the applied tariffs within the bound rates and take measures such as anti-dumping action, safeguard action and imposition on countervailing duties, which are per-missble under certain specified circumstances under the WTO Agreements.